United Nations DP/2005/40

Executive Board of the
United Nations Development
Programme and of the
United Nations Population Fund

Distr.: General
25 July 2005

Original: English

Second regular session 2005
6 to 9 September, New York
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Follow-up to UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

UNDP follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting*

Summary

The present document provides the UNDP response and implementation of recommendations made by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) during its sixteenth and seventeenth meetings – following up on the report presented to the Executive Board during its September 2004 session.

The document also outlines key areas of the HIV/AIDS work of UNDP as a cosponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in accordance with areas highlighted by the PCB. The key decisions, recommendations and conclusions adopted by the UNAIDS PCB are attached as an annex.

* The compilation of data required to present the Executive Board with the most current information has delayed submission of the present document.

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I. Context

1. The Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) held a joint meeting on 6 June 2003 to address the recommendations of the five-year evaluation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) contained in document UNAIDS/PCB(13)/02.2. The joint meeting discussed the implications of the recommendations for UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, and covered UNAIDS operational and governance issues.

2. Members of the Executive Board proposed that follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) meetings be placed as a regular item on the agenda of the Board. As suggested by the Board, this item was exceptionally taken up at its first regular session in January 2004 (DP/2004/13).

3. The Executive Board, at its last session in September 2004, requested UNDP to continue to work in close collaboration with the UNAIDS secretariat and with cosponsors especially at the country level to contribute to a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS. It recommended that UNDP ensures close collaboration with the UNAIDS Country Coordinator as a member of the United Nations Country Team. The Board recognized the need to further promote coherence and the importance of the 'Three Ones', and noted the growing support for harmonization at country level.

II. Decisions of the sixteenth and seventeenth PCB meetings: key elements affecting UNDP

4. The recommendations of the sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of the UNAIDS PCB cover a range of issues (see annex). This report outlines the response of UNDP to those recommendations that are particularly relevant to UNDP programming, which are categorized under the following themes:

(a) UNDP as a cosponsor of UNAIDS;
(b) Coordination and harmonization ('Three Ones');
(c) Global task team on improving AIDS coordination among multilateral institutions and international donors;
(d) Strengthening national responses;
(e) HIV treatment – issues in scaling up responses to HIV/AIDS;
(f) UNAIDS policy position paper on intensifying HIV prevention;
(g) Women, gender and AIDS; and
(h) UNAIDS unified budget and work plan, 2006-2007.

III. UNDP as a cosponsor of UNAIDS

5. As a founding cosponsor of UNAIDS, UNDP has made HIV/AIDS one of its top priorities. In 2003, the Executive Board endorsed HIV/AIDS as a full-fledged practice, and it is now a distinct goal under the multi-year funding framework (MYFF). Within the UNAIDS family, the mandate of UNDP is to address the unprecedented governance and human development challenges of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It provides policy advice and strategic guidance on how HIV/AIDS can

be incorporated within broader development planning processes. UNDP also serves as a resource to the United Nations system, continuously ensuring that information relating to these areas of work is shared, and approaches are harmonized.

6. Overall, country demand for UNDP support to HIV/AIDS responses nearly doubled, with close to 100 countries reporting progress in 2004. In the MYFF performance report, rates of achievement across all HIV/AIDS service lines were high. Country office results indicated a strong reliance across all drivers, reflecting the need to take an integrated approach to the epidemic that is nationally owned, country led, and focused on developing capacities of government and civil society to respond effectively. Eighty per cent of national partners recognized UNDP as a critical actor in responding to the epidemic. (see the multi-year funding framework report on UNDP performance and results for 2004, DP/2005/16)

7. At the country-level, UNDP continues to ensure that UNAIDS country coordinators (UCCs) are integrated into the United Nations Country Teams, and plays a central role in coordinating the work of United Nations theme groups on HIV and AIDS. Of 73 offices surveyed in 2004, UCCs reported that UNDP was active in all HIV/AIDS theme groups.

8. UNDP worked in partnership with the UNAIDS secretariat and cosponsors to establish the regional technical support facilities in Southern Africa, Latin America and West Africa, and helped conduct an assessment of the technical resource needs of 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. As part of the UNDP commitment to knowledge generation and knowledge sharing, its HIV/AIDS practice has produced more than 25 knowledge products in 2004-2005. These include strategy notes, implementation guides, regional reports and other key documents across all three service lines, focusing on leadership capacity development; development planning; community capacity enhancement; arts and media; trade; Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and access to medicines; and human rights. The HIV/AIDS practice network continues to grow, with over 800 members covering all regions.

10. UNDP continues to advance the implementation of its workplace programme, 'We Care', and is stepping up efforts to comply with the United Nations personnel policy on HIV/AIDS and the ILO code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work by the end of 2005. UNDP will ensure that all staff have access to voluntary counseling and testing; adequate care and treatment (including anti-retroviral drugs); prevention services through information, education and training; and will also ensure the protection of the rights of those affected by or living with HIV/AIDS.

IV. Coordination and harmonization

11. Increasingly, a key aspect of national implementation is ensuring greater harmonization and alignment of international support to avoid duplication and fragmentation of the resources allocated to national HIV/AIDS responses. In collaboration with the UNAIDS secretariat, UNDP, as manager of the resident coordinator system, will lead the implementation of the 'Three Ones' principles.

12. In terms of enhancing the United Nations system response, UNDP provides support, through the United Nations Country Teams, to design and monitor the HIV/AIDS aspects of common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, country programme action plans and United Nations Internet service providers as a way of delivering strategic technical assistance to support the implementation of national HIV/AIDS strategies and national development priorities.

V. Global task team on improving AIDS coordination among multilateral institutions and international donors

13. The formation of the global task team was agreed by leaders from government, civil society and international organizations, during the high-level meeting 'Making the Money Work: the Three Ones in Action', held in London, in March 2005, to review the global response to the AIDS epidemic. UNDP, along with UNICEF, represented the UNAIDS cosponsors and played an active role on the global task team. UNDP also participated in the working group on harmonization of technical support, one of three working groups facilitating the work of the global task team.

14. The global task team report makes strong recommendations for accelerating and strengthening the response to HIV/AIDS, aimed at multilateral institutions and the international community, developing country governments and national stakeholders. The UNAIDS PCB endorsed the task team recommendations.

15. UNDP fully supports the outcomes of the global task team and is taking action on a number of recommendations, including task team recommendations that:

(a) "Countries develop annual priority AIDS action plans that drive implementation, improve oversight, emphasize results, and provide a solid basis for the alignment of multilateral institutions' and international partners' support; within related efforts to progressively strengthen national AIDS action frameworks and root them in broader development plans and planning processes;

(b) Countries ensure that their macroeconomic and public expenditure frameworks support and appropriately prioritize the implementation of national AIDS action frameworks and annual priority AIDS action plans; the World Bank commits to working with the International Monetary Fund, UNDP, and the UNAIDS secretariat to support these actions;

(c) The United Nations Secretary-General instructs the United Nations resident coordinator to establish, in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team, a joint United Nations team on AIDS – facilitated by the UNAIDS country coordinator – that will develop a unified United Nations country support programme on AIDS within the national planning framework;

(d) The multilateral system establishes a joint United Nations system global fund problem-solving team that supports efforts to address implementation bottlenecks at the country level."

16. The UNAIDS secretariat and cosponsors are working to rapidly implement the recommendations of the global task team, including outlining a clear division of labour for the UNAIDS secretariat and each of the cosponsors at the country level,

and costing critical technical support needs. UNDP will take the lead role in the areas of: HIV/AIDS and development; governance; mainstreaming (including into instruments such as poverty reduction strategy papers – PRSPs); enabling legislation; human rights; and gender.

VI. Strengthening national responses

17. In line with PCB recommendations, UNDP continues to support national responses to ensure that HIV prevention strategies are integrated with global and national care and treatment initiatives and grounded in a human rights approach that addresses the needs of those especially vulnerable to HIV infection.

18. At the request of programme countries, UNDP has assisted over 30 countries globally in strengthening national planning processes, and in building critical multi-stakeholder leadership capacities to generate multi-sectoral responses using approaches that engage communities in local and national decision-making and action. National initiatives have been implemented, generating a deeper understanding of the epidemic and its underlying causes; addressing issues of vulnerability, stigma and discrimination; and supporting access to treatment and care. Examples at the national level include:

(a) In Nigeria, UNDP and the National Action Committee on AIDS are implementing a series of leadership programmes to strengthen national and state-level responses to the epidemic. The programmes have so far involved 500 leaders representing various sectors of government and civil society, from 14 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The programmes have engaged equal numbers of women and men, including significant participation by people living with HIV. Through the programmes, participants have strengthened their leadership capacities to address HIV/AIDS and have developed initiatives to achieve breakthrough responses to the epidemic. Results of the initiatives include the transformation of state action committees on AIDS into autonomous agencies; increased television, radio and newspaper coverage of HIV/AIDS, raising awareness and addressing stigma; increases in state and ministerial budgets allocated to AIDS; and the formation of faith -based groups to address HIV/AIDS.

(b) In China, the Leadership Development Programme implemented in the provinces of Shangdong and Hubei became the platform for multi-sectoral action for the first time. Geographically based groups developed multisectoral coordinating mechanisms to coordinate HIV/AIDS policy and programmes among different government departments. Acting on the principles of transformation introduced during the programme, the groups developed measures to promote greater openness about HIV/AIDS, widespread education about the epidemic, and increased tolerance for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Most groups developed multiple initiatives designed to incorporate AIDS into government planning in all areas, including health, education, media/ communications, local police and law enforcement, and finance. Based on the tremendous response from local authorities and organizations, the Government of China has decided to expand the programme to other provinces.

19. In accordance with the 'Three Ones' principles, the World Bank, UNDP and the UNAIDS secretariat have developed a joint initiative to build country capacity

to integrate HIV/AIDS into PRSPs. The support is focused on countries that will be developing or revising PRSPs between now and the end of 2006, particularly those preparing second-generation PRSPs. The process will enhance the understanding and practice of mainstreaming in support of the implementation of national responses. This is in line with the integrated package of UNDP services for implementing the Millennium Development Goals.

20. To sustain and develop the human and institutional capacities needed to deliver basic social services, UNDP is implementing the Southern Africa Capacity Initiative in partnership with UNAIDS cosponsors and national and regional stakeholders. The initiative focuses on alleviating capacity shortages due to AIDS across the public and private sectors and civil society. In 2004, more than 130 experienced United Nations Volunteers were placed in ministries and local governments in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia. Through the UNDP Community Capacity Enhancement Initiative, more than 500 trainers and facilitators are helping build capacity in communities to address issues relating to treatment literacy and access as part of efforts to support SADC countries in meeting their committed targets under the '3 by 5' initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO).

VII. HIV treatment – issues in scaling up responses to HIV/AIDS

21. In line with the PCB recommendations to support countries' efforts to exploit fully the opportunities offered within global trade rules to scale up access to treatment, UNDP launched the Intellectual Property and Access to HIV/AIDS Drugs Capacity Building Initiative. This initiative is managed jointly by the HIV/AIDS and Poverty Reduction groups and builds developing country capacity to sustainably access low-cost, high-quality HIV/AIDS medicines in the context of TRIPS and other intellectual property and trade agreements, both bilateral and multilateral.

22. Examples of actions taken include the collaboration of the African Union, UNDP and WHO, which helped strengthen the capacity of officials from trade and patent offices and ministries of health in 35 African countries to adopt provisions under the WTO TRIPS agreement that allow for sustainable access to affordable essential medicines for HIV/AIDS.

23. UNDP has facilitated the exchange of best practices in formulating public health sensitive intellectual property laws among developing countries in Asia and Africa. At the request of the East African Community, UNDP is providing support to countries (including Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) in reviewing the status and possible amendment of national patent laws in line with prevailing best practices.

24. UNDP directly supports countries in scaling up access to treatment in relation to its role as principal recipient of grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). In exceptional circumstances, country coordinating mechanisms and governments have requested UNDP to take on the role of principal recipient, providing financial and programmatic oversight of GFATM grants. UNDP acts as principal recipient for HIV/AIDS grants in 25 countries globally, over 50 per cent of them in Africa. A key component of this work focuses on enabling countries to roll out treatment campaigns through the procurement of

anti-retroviral medicines for approximately 50,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, for the five year duration of the grants.

VIII. Women, gender and AIDS

25. As evidenced in the multi-year funding framework performance report, the HIV/AIDS practice is increasingly integrating gender equality into its programmes. In view of the feminization of the epidemic, UNDP recognizes that efforts in this area should be significantly strengthened, and action is being taken to do so.

26. During the General Assembly review of the Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS in 2005, UNDP, in partnership with UNHCR, UNIFEM and the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened the high-level round table on human rights and gender. The round table reviewed progress, addressed critical human rights and gender equality challenges that continue to fuel the spread of HIV/AIDS, and recommended key actions to support the achievement of the goals enumerated in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in June 2001.

27. In line with PCB recommendations to improve and intensify action related to women and AIDS. and responding to country demand, UNDP and UNIFEM – with support from the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS – are launching an initiative called 'HIV/AIDS and Women's Inheritance and Property Rights'. This initiative focuses on women's inheritance and property rights and aims to bridge the gap between law and practice.

28. UNDP recognizes the need to involve men and boys as full partners in championing gender equality in the response to HIV/AIDS. In South Africa, a UNDP-supported initiative has resulted in groups of men running advocacy campaigns against harmful sexual practices, and sensitizing other men to the links between such practices and the spread of the epidemic. The initiatives have enabled men to take responsibility for challenging unequal gender power relations and the vulnerability of women to HIV.

29. Regional events such as the South Asia Court on the Violence of Trafficking and HIV/AIDS have given national governments an opportunity to reflect on their policies toward HIV/AIDS and related issues. Prior to the Court, participating nations held preparatory meetings to discuss trafficking and how it affected their countries. These meetings resulted in increased participation by a range of stakeholders. At the event itself, roundtable discussions gave leaders a chance to share their thoughts on such topics as human rights, the media representation of trafficking, and creating partnerships for action on trafficking and HIV/AIDS.

IX. UNAIDS policy position paper on intensifying HIV prevention

30. In response to the urgent need for action to reduce the growing numbers of HIV infections, UNAIDS has developed a new policy position paper on Intensifying HIV prevention. This policy position paper outlines essential principles, policy and programmatic actions that are needed to get ahead of the HIV epidemic.

31. The UNAIDS Board welcomed and endorsed the development of the policy position paper on intensifying HIV prevention, and requested the secretariat and cosponsors to develop action plans based on the position paper, including through a division of responsibilities among the different agencies, funds and programmes.

32. UNDP endorses the position paper on intensifying HIV prevention and is fully committed to working with the UNAIDS secretariat and cosponsors in implementing the prevention strategy.

X. UNAIDS unified budget and work plan, 2006-2007

33. The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board welcomed and approved the unified budget and work plan for 2006-2007, including the process of defining results under 16 key areas. UNDP has been assigned 10.5% of the total dollar amount allocated to the ten cosponsors to lead the United Nations response to HIV/AIDS in the areas of human development and governance.

Annex

Sixteenth meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, Jamaica, 14-15 December 2004

Decisions, Recommendations and Conclusions

Agenda item 1.1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the provisional agenda

1. The Programme Coordinating Board adopted the agenda.

Agenda item 1.2: Confirmation of Officers

2. As decided at its 15th meeting, Canada was confirmed as Chair, Bahamas as Vice-Chair and Kenya as Rapporteur of the 16th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board.

Agenda item 1.3: Statement of the Executive Director

3. In welcoming the Statement of the UNAIDS Executive Director, the Programme Coordinating Board:

3.1 notes with concern the increasing impact of HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean region, welcomes the various initiatives and examples of progress cited by the Executive Director and calls upon the international community, particularly national governments, to support a stronger and inclusive response to address the needs of those especially at risk of HIV exposure, including men who have sex with men, sex workers, mobile populations, injecting and other drug users, prisoners, youth, women and girls;

3.2 recognizes fully the exceptionality of AIDS, and therefore endorses the call to combine increased long-term investments in the response to AIDS with essential crisis management today. This exceptionality requires full funding of the response, innovative and radical strategies to strengthen the public sector, active engagement of the private sector, and enhanced community capacity and preparedness to address the epidemic. It also requires accelerating investment in preventive technologies, such as the development of HIV vaccines and microbicides, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, and ensuring that such investments are used effectively;

3.3 urges UNAIDS to continue to play a leadership role in making the "Three Ones" a reality, promoting harmonization, and encouraging responsible donor behaviour, long-term commitment and, for those who are willing, pooling of funds to assist countries in managing their responses to AIDS more effectively;

3.4 supports the commitment by UNAIDS to "make the money work" at the country level by, amongst other things, scaling up technical support, building capacity and promoting coordinated and comprehensive responses;

3.5 recognizes its own firmly established role as the prime global AIDS policy forum and, in order to strengthen its deliberations, requests the Bureau to consult with members on the issues of constituency functioning and the frequency and focus of meetings and to present recommendations to the 17th Programme Coordinating Board meeting in 2005; and

3.6 congratulates donors for their ongoing and increasing support to the response to HIV and AIDS and encourages them to review the resource needs of UNAIDS, including the Secretariat, to ensure it can fulfill its core mandate, including the provision of sufficient funding for the 2006-2007 biennium which will be reviewed in the 17th Programme Coordinating Board meeting;

Agenda item 2: Women, Gender and AIDS

4. Recognizing the increasing impact of AIDS on women and girls, the Programme Coordinating Board:

4.1 encourages UNAIDS to ensure that women and girls are meaningful participants and leaders in the response to AIDS;

4.2 calls for a stronger focus on the underlying gender, social, cultural and economic issues that affect women and girls, in global advocacy as well as in national and community responses to AIDS, through integration of these underlying issues into initiatives at all levels and ensuring analysis informs relevant programming and monitoring and evaluation;

4.3 urges UNAIDS to improve and intensify action related to women and AIDS, in particular through further development of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, as well as through greater involvement of a wider range of partners;

4.4 urges all HIV prevention and AIDS care and treatment programmes to disaggregate, analyse and report data by sex and age;

4.5 urges UNAIDS and the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and all partners to integrate, as strong and robust components of their work, AIDS interventions with sexual and reproductive health and the promotion and protection of reproductive rights, as well as the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

4.6 encourages UNAIDS to build and promote innovative partnerships with women's and girls' organizations, in particular networks of HIV-positive women, and with groups that work with men and boys in an effort to reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS on the lives of women and girls—at local, country, regional and global levels;

4.7 calls for greater action to address the issue of gender-based and sexual violence, including in conflict- and post-conflict settings, recognizing the important role of men and boys as agents of change in this issue; and

4.8 recognizes that the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS was established during the existing biennium, and requests the Secretariat to examine ways to resource the initiative adequately from the existing core Unified Budget and Workplan and extrabudgetary resources, and to integrate it into the 2006-2007 biennium budget.

Agenda item 3: Intensifying HIV Prevention

5. Welcoming the action taken on the decision of the 15th Programme Coordinating Board in June 2004 for UNAIDS to develop a revitalized prevention strategy, the Programme Coordinating Board:

5.1 acknowledges the progress made to date on the development of a strategy to intensify HIV prevention and reiterates its support of the underpinnings of the strategy based on the Global HIV/AIDS Strategy, endorsed by the Board in

Rio de Janeiro in 2000, and on the 2001 UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

5. 2 requests UNAIDS to take the feedback and inputs provided by PCB members into consideration and engage in further consultations among PCB members, UNAIDS Cosponsors and a wide range of other partners, including national governments and civil society, in order to strengthen the strategy;

5.3 requests UNAIDS to ensure that the prevention strategy is clearly based on evidence, integrated with global and national prevention, care and treatment initiatives, and grounded in a human-rights approach that specifically addresses the needs of those especially at risk of HIV exposure, including women and girls, youth, men who have sex with men, injecting and other drug users, sex workers, people living in poverty, prisoners, migrant labourers, people in conflict and post-conflict situations, refugees and internally displaced persons;

5.4 recommends that the strategy has clear links to sexual and reproductive health programmes as important entry points for HIV prevention;

5.5 recognizes that stigma and discrimination are major barriers to effective HIV prevention and encourages UNAIDS to address stigma reduction in the strategy, including by advocating for the adoption, strengthening and enforcement of antidiscrimination measures at country level;

5.6 encourages UNAIDS to include in the strategy a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to HIV prevention, treatment and care among prisoners as well as among injecting and other drug users that includes reducing the transmission of HIV; and

5.7 endorses the process proposed by UNAIDS for the development of the strategy and requests UNAIDS to submit the strategy to the PCB at its meeting in June 2005.

Agenda item 4: Report of the field visits

6. The Programme Coordinating Board expresses its appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for the support it has provided in the organization of the field visits.

7. The Programme Coordinating Board takes note of the report from the field visits covering: health sector response to HIV/AIDS in West Jamaica by the Western Region Health Authority; edutainment of the Ashe Caribbean Performing Arts Foundation; care, support and prevention programmes for marginalized groups of the Jamaica AIDS Support; and dissemination of the "National policy for HIV/AIDS management in schools".

Agenda item 5: Other matters

5.1 Update on the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006-2007

8. Noting with satisfaction the progress made in preparing the Unified Budget and Workplan (UBW) 2006-2007 the Programme Coordinating Board:

8.1 expresses its support for the strategic orientation of the UBW 2006-2007 and its overall thrust to support countries in scaling up their response to HIV/AIDS;

8.2 welcomes the inclusion of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme in the UBW 2006- 2007, which each bring specific

new strengths to the UNAIDS response, alongside the confirmed strong action by the existing Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Secretariat; and

8.3 also expresses its support for innovations in the UBW 2006-2007 to enhance results-based management, accountability and reporting, including the identification of the aggregated "principal results" and the "key results" to which each Cosponsor and the Secretariat are accountable.

5.2 Progress on the "Three Ones"

9. Taking note of the report on Global and Country Level Progress on the Three Ones, the Programme Coordinating Board:

9.1 expresses support for UNAIDS efforts to promote the harmonization of donor support and stakeholder participation in national AIDS responses around the Three Ones principles;

9.2 encourages UNAIDS to continue its leadership role in engaging the support of governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, bilateral and multilateral agencies in the implementation of the "Three Ones" principles; and

9.3 requests an update at the 17th PCB on progress in promoting and implementing the "Three Ones" principles.

5.3 Update on the World AIDS Campaign

10. The Programme Coordinating Board notes with satisfaction the refocused and enhanced World AIDS Campaign in support of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

11. Noting the need for coordinated and increased advocacy in support of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the Programme Coordinating Board:

11.1 further encourages UNAIDS to support the World AIDS Campaign as a vehicle for civil society to participate meaningfully in the fulfilment of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, including engaging the United Nations System and public and private sector partners so that the World AIDS Campaign is adequately supported; and

11.2 requests governments to support the goal of the World AIDS Campaign and to increase efforts to raise the visibility of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

Agenda item 6: Next meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board

12. The Programme Coordinating Board reconfirms the decision of the 14th meeting that the 17th Programme Coordinating Board meeting be held on 28-29 June 2005. The Programme Coordinating Board also confirms that the meeting will be held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Agenda item 7: Adoption of Decisions, Recommendations and Conclusions

13. The Programme Coordinating Board expresses deep appreciation to the Government and people of Jamaica for hosting its 16th meeting, and adopts the decisions, recommendations and conclusions of the 16th Programme Coordinating Board meeting.

Seventeenth meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, 27-29 June 2005

Decisions, Recommendations and Conclusions

Agenda item 1.1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the provisional agenda

1. The Programme Coordinating Board adopted the agenda.

Agenda item 1.2: Election of Officers

2. Brazil was elected as Chair, Sweden as Vice-Chair and China as Rapporteur of the 17th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board.

Agenda item 1.3: Consideration of the reports of the 15th and 16th meetings

3. The Programme Coordinating Board adopted the reports of the15th and 16th meetings.

Agenda item 1.4: Report of the Executive Director

4. Taking note of the achievements of UNAIDS during the last biennium, and recognizing the many continuing challenges for the response to AIDS and for UNAIDS, the Programme Coordinating Board:

4.1 supports UNAIDS' efforts to advocate for increased resources to be devoted to the response to AIDS, and to explore innovative options for expanding the funding base, nationally and internationally;

4.2 further supports UNAIDS' efforts to identify the obstacles to effective AIDS programme implementation and to support countries in overcoming such obstacles, and accelerate implementation through the tapping of national and regional capacities through its Technical Support Facilities, the brokering of horizontal cooperation, the strengthening of UNAIDS' own capacity in this area, and working with country partners, civil society and donors to articulate further the nature and scale of the problem, and how policies and programmes can be refined;

4.3 encourages UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors and UN Country Teams to strengthen their support for the greater coherence and accountability of AIDS responses, through the adoption and implementation of the "Three Ones" principles in all countries, the integration of AIDS harmonization into the broader development agenda while continuing to recognize the exceptionality of AIDS, and the strengthening of greater coordination and alignment of monitoring and evaluation approaches;

4.4 recognizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to AIDS, encourages UNAIDS to continue to promote and support countries in the development of evidence-informed AIDS strategies, including efforts towards universal access to prevention, treatment and care services;

4.5 recognizing the equal importance of ensuring a sustained response to the global AIDS epidemic, encourages UNAIDS to develop a long-term approach for the global AIDS response taking into account: sustainable financing of comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; the linking of AIDS to the broader development agenda; and the continuation of the current political momentum and public awareness on AIDS; in order to promote and support

initiatives that tackle the enduring obstacles to development, and the social, demographic and economic impacts of AIDS, and

4.6 encourages UNAIDS to develop a strategy and continue to mobilize a truly inclusive response to AIDS including the promotion and facilitation of the inclusion of civil society, people living with HIV and AIDS and the private sector in national and international responses to AIDS, and the mobilization of greater management support for civil society organisations in grant application and programme implementation.

Agenda item 1.5: Report by the Chairperson of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations

5. Noting with appreciation the Report by the Chairperson of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations, the Programme Coordinating Board:

5.1 welcomes the joint programme-wide initiatives undertaken by UNAIDS, led by various Cosponsors and in some cases by the Secretariat, notes their key achievements and multisectoral activities, and welcomes the commitment of the Cosponsors regarding the continuing challenges in the field of AIDS, and;

5.2 urges the Cosponsors and Secretariat to continue to strengthen the UNAIDS partnership, especially at country level, as well as to strengthen the collective working arrangements of the Cosponsors, and thereby contribute to a comprehensive response to AIDS.

Agenda item 1.6: Report by the Nongovernmental Representative

6. The Programme Coordinating Board welcomes the report of the nongovernmental organizations and recognizes civil society as a key partner; and

6.1 urges UNAIDS to lead in the development of a long-term strategy to enable access to resources by civil society to support and sustain the scale-up of their enormous human resource contribution toward implementation of HIV prevention, care, treatment and support activities worldwide.

Agenda item 2: Report of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS

Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors

7. Welcoming the rapid, high-level and highly participatory work of the ad hoc Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors, the Programme Coordinating Board:

7.1 endorses the complete set of recommendations contained in the 14 June final report of the Global Task Team noting the central importance of country ownership;

7.2 requests the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors – and invites the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – to develop action plans and to implement the Global Task Team recommendations and maintain the momentum created by the Global Task Team, within the specified timeframes;

7.3 urges the governing bodies of UNAIDS Cosponsors, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other multilateral institutions to consider and endorse the Global Task Team recommendations;

7.4 urges all other international partners to consider and, whenever possible, implement the alignment and harmonization arrangements detailed in the Global Task Team recommendations;

requests the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors, in cooperation with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other relevant development

partners, to report on progress in the implementation of Global Task Team recommendations at a special session in the June 2006 Programme Coordinating Board meeting;

7.5 urges UNAIDS to promote the full participation of civil society at the country and global levels in implementing the recommendations of the Global Task Team; and

7.6 encourages the UNAIDS Secretariat to lead a rapid and inclusive process – including civil society – ahead of the September 2005 Global Fund Replenishment Conference for the expansion and refocusing of UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Funds so they enable the UN system and others to scale up the provision and facilitation of technical support.

Explanatory note to Section 7: the PCB recognizes that the implementation of the Global Task Team recommendations would have to be within the framework of national laws, as well as regulations and policies of the governing bodies of multilateral organizations and international institutions. The PCB also notes that a move toward a programme-based approach includes coordinated parallel financing and pooled funding.

Agenda item 3: UNAIDS Policy Position Paper: Intensifying HIV Prevention

8. Welcoming the action taken by UNAIDS on the decision of its 16th Programme Coordinating Board meeting in December 2004 for UNAIDS to engage in the development of a strategy for intensifying HIV prevention, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board:

8.1 expresses satisfaction with the extent and range of consultations in which UNAIDS has engaged in the development of the UNAIDS Policy Position Paper: Intensifying HIV Prevention;

8.2 endorses the UNAIDS Policy Position Paper: Intensifying HIV Prevention, as amended;

8.3 urges UNAIDS to strengthen its leadership of, and support to, global, regional and national efforts to intensify HIV prevention as part of a comprehensive response to AIDS;

8.4 requests UNAIDS to take the lead in intensifying HIV prevention, through expediting the development of an action plan based on the Policy Position Paper and the recommendations of the Global Task Team, and to inform the Programme Coordinating Board of this action plan by December 2005; noting that this will entail further harmonizing and coordinating its efforts through a clear division of responsibilities between the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors, as well as by coordinating its efforts with national and global stakeholders;

8.5 requests UNAIDS to provide a progress report in June 2006 on UNAIDS' efforts to intensify HIV prevention; and

8.7 notes the United States statement that the United States could not fund needle and syringe programmes because such programmes are inconsistent with current United States law and policy, and notes that this external partner cannot be expected to fund activities inconsistent with its own national laws and policies.

Agenda item 4: UNAIDS Unified Budget and Workplan 2006-2007

9. The Programme Coordinating Board:

9.1 expresses its satisfaction with the success of the Secretariat and Cosponsors in responding fully to the decisions of the Programme Coordinating Board and further improving the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006-2007, by

setting out clearly the contributions of UNAIDS to the global response and bringing further strategic coherence to work planning and budgeting;

9.2 commends UNAIDS for strengthening the results-based management framework of the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006-2007, making it a more user-friendly and transparent document and a better tool for accountability, and notes with satisfaction the inclusion of results and corresponding indicators of achievement at the level of the Joint Programme as a whole and at the level of individual Cosponsors and the Secretariat;

9.3 recognizes that the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006-2007 is a prime example of United Nations' reform in action;

9.4 requests UNAIDS to take further steps to strengthen the Unified Budget and Workplan as an instrument for UN system coherence to capture country level financing and harmonization with a strengthened results-based management approach, and that UNAIDS report to the Programme Coordinating Board on these steps in June 2006;

9.5 urges UNAIDS Secretariat to establish a process aimed at aligning the Unified Budget and Workplan with the recommendations of the Global Task Team and to identify their financial implications;

9.6 notes with satisfaction the increases in the Cosponsors' own resources for global, regional and country level activities, all of which are tangible expressions of their increased capacity, commitment and action to fight the AIDS epidemic and its consequences;

9.7 requests UNAIDS to respond to Decision 8.2 of the 15th Programme Coordinating Board to present a harmonized report to Cosponsors' governing bodies; the 2006-2007 Unified Budget and Workplan provides an opportunity to present to the Programme Coordinating Board a summary report on country-level spending, including the use of Unified Budget and Workplan funds at the country level; in all cases duplicative reporting should be avoided; Programme Coordinating Board members also acknowledge their responsibility to ensure coherence as members of Cosponsors' governing bodies;

9.8 endorses the strategies and approaches contained in the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006-2007, in particular its emphasis on enabling countries to scale up the national response to the AIDS epidemic;

9.9 mindful that some regions or subregions bear a disproportionate share of the AIDS burden, often compounded, as in the case of sub-Saharan Africa, by very high levels of poverty and, underlining the importance of allocating funds to reflect this situation, requests the UNAIDS Secretariat to prepare an additional table in the Unified Budget and Workplan to show more clearly the regional distribution of resources;

9.10 urges UNAIDS Secretariat to examine and propose ways and means to the 18th Programme Coordinating Board to increase the flexibility of the Unified Budget and Workplan, including the possible establishment of a contingency fund and a mid-term review;

approves the core budget of US$ 320.5 million and the proposed distribution of those resources as follows: US$ 120.7 million for the Cosponsors; US$ 115.4 million for the Secretariat; and US$ 84.4 million for interagency activities; and

9.11 urges all countries to fully fund the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006- 2007 in accordance with the principle of burden sharing.

Agenda item 5: United Nations System Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS, 2006-2010

10. Recognizing the importance of strengthening commitment and expanding action of the United Nations system in response to AIDS, the Programme Coordinating Board:

10.1 welcomes the efforts of the United Nations system organizations to continue working together as a system under one framework, in line with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration and the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and urges the UN system to demonstrate even greater progress toward harmonization and coordination goals;

10.2 commends the progress made by the Cosponsors, other UN system organizations and the UNAIDS Secretariat on the development of the United Nations System Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS 2006-2010;

10.3 urges the United Nations system organizations to mainstream AIDS in their global, regional and national plans and programmes with concrete mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, to direct their country offices to support national programmes, and to propose to their governing bodies that they discuss AIDS in the context of the United Nations System Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS 2006-2010; and

10.4 welcomes the intention of the UNAIDS Executive Director to review the United Nations System Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS 2006-2010, taking into account ongoing UN reform efforts (e.g. the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review) and the ongoing implementation of the Global Task Team recommendations.

Agenda item 6.1: Progress on implementation of the "Three Ones"

11. The Programme Coordinating Board takes note of the progress on implementation of the "Three Ones".

11.1 urges UNAIDS to continue to lead in building capacity and political support for the implementation at country level of the "Three Ones", taking into account the recommendations in the Global Task Team report, through the development of tools and guidelines and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, to strengthen national authorities and the participation of country level stakeholders including civil society; and

11.2 recognizes that the sustainable implementation of the "Three Ones" remains a challenge, especially as we move toward the 2006 UN General Assembly review of the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and requests UNAIDS to facilitate further harmonization of global monitoring and evaluation systems, and their alignment to country systems

Agenda item 6.2: Interim Financial Management Information for the 2004-2005 Biennium and Financial Update as at 31 March 2005

12. Taking note of the interim financial management information for the 2004- 2005 biennium and the financial update as at 31 March 2005, the Programme Coordinating Board:

12.1 endorses the Executive Director's proposal for the utilization of the anticipated fund balance, and;

12.2 encourages donor governments and others to release their contributions towards the Unified Budget and Workplan for 2004-2005 as soon as possible, if they have not already done so.

Agenda item 7: Next PCB meeting

13. The Programme Coordinating Board reconfirms its decision from the 14th meeting that the 18th Programme Coordinating Board meeting will be held on 27-28 June 2006, in Geneva. The Bureau and the Secretariat may, bearing in mind the length of the agenda and the financial implications, extend the meeting by one day.

Agenda item 8: Any other business

14. The Programme Coordinating Board notes that the agenda item on AIDS and Security was withdrawn, and notes that the UNAIDS Executive Director committed to the inclusion of the item as soon as possible at a future Programme Coordinating Board meeting.

Agenda item 9: Adoption of decisions, recommendations and conclusions

15. The Programme Coordinating Board adopts the decisions, recommendations and conclusions of the 17th Programme Coordinating Board meeting.